POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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1. VIET CONG PRONOUNCEMENTS ON GVN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, HAVE EVIDENCED A DERISIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD GVN CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION. WELL PRIOR TO THE JUNE 30 FILING DATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, THE VIET CONG, THROUGH RADIO COMMENTARIES, MADE KNOWN ITS OPPOSITION TO ELECTION "FARCE" CITING USUAL PROGAGANDISTIC REASONS TO SUPPORT THIS CHARGE. RECENT HANOI AND VC BROADCASTS REACTING TO THIEU-KY MERGED SLATE TYPIFIED VC APPROACH, WHICH MAY LIKELY

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 880 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BE PURSUED THROUGHOUT CAMPAIGN. BROADCASTS STRESSED PERSONALITY CLASHES BETWEEN THIEU AND KY, BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CANDIDATES, CONFLICT IN ARVN, AND ACCUSED U.S. OF MANAGING "PUPPETS."

2. VC HAVE ALREADY CALLED ON SAIGON AREA "COMPATRIOTS" TO BOYCOTT SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS (ANNOUNCED IN JULY 2 BROADCAST). DIFFICULT TO PREDICT TO WHAT EXTENT BOYCOTT THEME WILL BE REPEATED AND HOW MUCH IT WILL BE EMPHASIZED BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY, OR INDEED WHAT TACTIC VC WILL FOLLOW. VC MAY BE RELUCTANT TO REPEAT THE TACTICS WHICH BACKFIRED ON THEM IN 1966 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OF PUSHING LINE THAT EXTENT OF VOTER TURNOUT WILL IN EFFECT CONSTITUTE PLEBICITE BETWEEN GVN AND VC.
BUNKER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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